

Quid Novi

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McGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITÉ MCGILL FACULTÉ DE DROIT

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le 7 septembre, 1993

Quid Novi?

Latin for "what's new?" At the *Quid* there have been quite a few changes since the spring. Our staff has undergone the inevitable yearly changes with people graduating and moving on to "bigger and better things" and new people arriving. Our editor-in-chief Maikke graduated and her erstwhile replacement Andreas will soon be heading to Europe to study. Soon enough, the *Quid* will have a new editor-in-chief, as soon as we can have elections.

The most noticeable change however is the appearance of the *Quid* itself. We the staff opted to change the computer and software to make it easier and faster to produce the *Quid*. Gone is the old Macintosh and replacing it is a new IBM-compatible computer. It is equipped with publishing software graciously donated by Microsoft Canada.

What does this mean? Well as soon as the computer gods on the second floor of New Chancellor Day Hall deem fit, the *Quid* will be hooked up to the E-mail system and students can send articles directly to us so that a poor *Quid* staffer won't have to spend an afternoon retyping in an article that was already typed. This will give us two benefits: the *Quid* can be produced much faster, and any typos will be your own, not ours... In the meantime you can submit 3.5 inch disks with your articles on them to the *Quid* box in the LSA and we'll bother with the translation software.

This also means that the *Quid* will have a slightly different appearance although we have tried to maintain as much of the old look as possible.

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Registration Information

by Associate Dean Academic Harvison-Young and Joshua Fireman

A number of students have expressed concern to both the office of the Associate Dean Academic and the Law Students Association concerning problems with MARS and the early registration system in general.

Two main difficulties have surfaced. The first has to do with limited registration courses and the inability of some students to access MARS at 6:00 a.m. on the first day of registration. The second involves students who live outside of Montreal and whose registration packages went astray.

Associate Dean Harvison-Young and the LSA met over the summer to discuss these problems and to attempt to come up with a solution which would be fair and equitable to all students who were unable to register for some courses due to the aforementioned problems.

Thus, between Tues., September 7 and Thurs. Sept. 9 at 4:30 p.m., all students will have an opportunity to place their names on waiting lists for the following courses:

Bankruptcy & Insolvency
Business Associations (Jordan)
Business Organizations
Canad. Charter of Rts. & Freedoms
Civil Liberties

Civil Litigation
Commercial Transactions
Communications Law
Computers & the Law
Employment Law
Equity & Trusts
Feminist Legal Theory
International Business Enterprises
Judicial Institutions & Civil Procedure (H.P. Glenn)
Judicial Review
Law of Int'l Organizations
Law & Practice of Int'l Trade
Law & Psychiatry
Law of Real Security
Private Int'l Law (H.P. Glenn)
Public Int'l Law (Tooze)
R.S.I/II: Selected Problems in Domestic and Int'l Arbitration Law
Successions
Taxation (Durnford)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS / ANNONCES

Here ye, here ye! All second year students are hereby ordered to attend a general meeting under the auspices of the Legal Methodology Programme, by order of the Director and the Assistant Director. Said meeting will be held in the glorious confines of the Moot Court on Weds., September 15 at 12:30 p.m.

All students are requested to pick-up up to date registration materials (including new course information), which are available at SAO.

Coffee House volunteers needed! If you're interested, please call Roland at 286-8178, or stop him in the halls, in class, on the street or anywhere you see him...

Office of Undergraduate Studies

Welcome to the new-look **Undergraduate Studies Office (USO)** which incorporates Admissions and Student Affairs. We are there to answer all your usual and unusual queries and generally to help ease your way through law school.

Until a barrier is installed in the reception area, we would all appreciate it if you

would please WAIT at the counter for service and NOT wander between work stations looking for an available person.

Additional changes made during the summer are as follows:

Lost and Found is now located in the the LSA office. The safe in the USO is, of course, available should an item of value be turned in.

Student mail boxes remain in the USO.

The USO notice board is now in the corridor around the corner from the office area.

We are hoping to use the student computer network as a notice board at some time in the future. USO will keep you posted via the Quid of progress in this matter.

You will find locker assignments posted on the bulletin board in the Cafeteria.

USO still has papers unclaimed from last term. We will keep them until Friday 24th September, after which time they will be recycled.

THE MCGILL LAW JOURNAL / LA REVUE DE DROIT DE MCGILL

While you were away enjoying your summer, the **Law Journal** executive was hard at work, producing Volume 38. Consequently, Volume 38(1) was published this summer and is currently available for pick-up. Volumes 38(2), 38(3), and 38(4) should be published during the fall term.

Nous invitons tous les étudiants et étudiantes de deuxième, troisième et quatrième année au 3661 bis, rue Peel (porte du côté) pour ramasser leur copie de la **Revue**. Tous ceux et celles qui désirent compléter leur abonnement pourront, par la même occasion, se procurer les numéros manquants.

Second year students should receive volume 38 in its entirety. Third year students are entitled to volumes 37 and 38, while fourth year students should have received these two volumes and volume 36.

Veuillez nous excuser pour le retard dans la publication du volume 38. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer au 3661 bis, rue Peel.

ORIENTATION WEEK SCHEDULE HORAIRE DE LA SEMAINE D'ORIENTATION

Tues., Sept. 7:	Tutorial Dinner at the <i>Brochetterie Alexandre</i> (7:00 p.m.).
Wed., 8 sept.:	Party des partenaires de droit à <i>Thompson House</i> (20h30).
Thurs., Sept. 9:	Students' Reception sponsored by the Dean, to be held on the OCDH front lawn (6:00 p.m.).
Fri., 10 sept.:	Students' Reception sponsored by the Dean, to be held on the OCDH front lawn (6:00 p.m.).
Sat., 11 sept.:	Students' Reception sponsored by the Dean, to be held on the OCDH front lawn (6:00 p.m.).
Sun., 12 sept.:	Journée sportive (12h00) suivie par un party "Happy Hour" au bar <i>Déjà Vu</i> .
Tues., Sept. 14:	Pub Crawl at 7:30 p.m., followed by an earth-shattering party at the <i>Pool Pub</i> .

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Reverently Irreverent

By Paul Brown, L.L.B. III

This article is going to be different. This article should be different. At least by its design I expect it to be different. Usually when I write I only have a vague notion of what it is that I want to say. It is more a feeling that something deserves a bracing shot of sarcasm than a clearly defined issue in my mind that I want to expound upon.

To put it another way, imagine a nervous adventurer back in the days of the "discovery" of Canada (Just how does one discover and explore a continent than has existed and already been inhabited for thousands of years anyway?) During one of his first nights here, he hears the strange noises of unseen wild animals just outside of the circle of light cast by his flickering campfire. In the fog of his drowsiness, he pulls out his musket, scratches his head while figuring out where the horrific beast must be preparing to spring from, and then proceeds to blast the poor unsuspecting porcupine out of the tree with a scattershot of small stones and rusty nails. Luckily for the porcupine the wild blast missed and only startled it into losing its grip and greeting the industrial revolution with a face plant.

situation but in the daylight where our brave adventurer encounters our quilly friend, and is surprised to find it in a tree (back home they never climbed trees!). To teach it a lesson and to (literally) put it in its place, takes deadly aim and stuns the poor bugger with a nugget of granite.

Plop.

This article is starting backwards (for me at least). I have the title

The ivory tower seems to be a magnifying glass through which things totally insignificant to the layperson are constantly blown up out of proportion

(can't rely on the editor-in-chief to impose one this time...) and I'm writing the article using the title as an idea to ground my sentences to -- much like a post driven into the ground keeps an escape artist-cum-dog-on-a-chain from running loose. Today I know what I am going to be pontificating about: the reverence that people exhibit to things for the damndest of reasons.

The *New Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus of the English Language* (just who is Webster anyway? It is not as if this is the name of the

dictionary (I checked. (sorry just wondering...))) defines the word "revere" as "to regard with affectionate awe or veneration." To be reverent therefore is to revere, and to be irreverent contrarily is to lack reverence.

How many things in our daily lives do we revere? I am not referring to religious beliefs nor to close family members (who would probably be insulted to be referred to as "things" anyway), but to ordinary things that you take an extra special and close interest in. For example, I'll confess that in a way I revere mountains, including our own Mount Royal. However, these are not obsessions verging on fetishes, but rather deep and profound attachments to things either physical or abstract (and no, to anticipate any questions, I do not have any desire to be chained to a mountain...(a title is bad enough)).

I'm amazed at what other people seem to revere. It is not a subject for conversation that people casually enter into during social occasions ("So, what do you revere? [Pause] And how often...?") or even during serious conversations ("So, you say that revering Criminal Law is a socially redeeming pastime. Yes, but what about Constitutional Law...?"). However unspoken (or noticed) that such reverence

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Registration Information

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Once all waiting lists have been assembled, selection for open spaces will take place on the following basis: First, graduating students will be given preference for courses necessary for the completion of their degrees. Then, remaining spots will be filled from all other names on the

list via a lottery. Note that any openings in Civil Litigation will be available only to graduating students who will be selected by a lottery.

This solution was chosen as a fair way to distribute open spaces in limited enrollment classes. Until the lottery selection takes place, no students will be able to enroll in any of the aforementioned courses through MARS. Students will, however, continue to be free

to drop courses that they no longer wish to take.

As a final note, both the Associate Dean Academic and the LSA would like to make it clear to all students that we will be working toward modifying the early registration system for next year. All student recommendations would be more than welcome, and may be made to the LSA through Joshua Fireman.

Reverently Irreverent

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might be, it is definitely present everywhere. Academia is ripe with the smell of it. Swollen stuffy professors (I must admit that I do like that expression...(don't revere it though)) are prime examples of it. The ivory tower seems to be a magnifying glass through which things totally insignificant to the lay person are constantly blown up out of proportion and become the subject of a life's work, government grants, seminar courses, countless papers and swollen stuffy meetings.

Some researchers spend a lifetime out of perspective, hunched over a microscope (metaphoric or real) trying to be the ones who get the credit for pulling something through their "microscopes" and into perspective. The really successful ones are those who can live in either dimension, and can make the passage between "out-of-perspective" and "in-perspective" with ease. There are two types of lesser successful researchers: those who pass through the microscope and never return (Didn't Lewis Carroll write something about this?), and those who never get absorbed into their work and cannot pass through the microscope (Poor bugger, relegated to reality...).

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One change that the astute observer might notice is in the scales of justice embedded in the title on the front page. We couldn't get the old drawing with the McGill crest and the gavel balancing evenly so we ad-libbed with this drawing of unevenly balanced scales. Who knows... perhaps it is a more appropriate representation of the editorial [im]balance of the paper...

We'd like to welcome everyone back to school and to extend a special welcome to all the first-year students. We always welcome contributions (right Joshua?) and/or new help on our staff. Details

This is not limited to academic research. People revere many other types of things (themselves for one...but there's a life's work (and more) with a magnifying glass...) that have nothing to do with research. Beer for instance. You really have to wonder when you hear odes ("It's the nectar of the gods!") to the liquid result of mixing special fungi with grain. The reverence is evident when you realize that there are people who live only for weekends/beer. Sure they are not studying it like the academics study their objects of reverence -- but then can you blame them? Beer is just one of those things that the more you revere it, the less capable you are of studying it; or if you do manage to study it, odds are that you won't remember and important

...what would mountains be without the valleys to define them? Nothing but high flat rock.

revelations the next day...

What else do people revere? Like I mentioned, some people revere themselves. Seems that they couldn't find anything else worthwhile to be interested in, so they might as well take up self-adulation as a hobby.

I guess that the only thing that I truly revere (besides mountains) is irreverence. It is no contradiction. Irreverence is the one thing that I would probably be tempted to reverentially write a thesis (or a *Quid* article for that matter...) about. The way I look at life is that reverence tends to limit people (but then I'll admit, it *does* often focus greatness). More often, reverence sets the parameters of our usual existence as we base it in some fashion around the revered thing. Taken to an extreme it prevents people from being able to transcend themselves and/or their lot as they accept a paradigm so fully as to make them inflexible towards

other ones. An alternative view becomes anathema if incompatible with a set way of life. Should someone else not share this same sense of reverence with you, they will likely be dismissed or yet condemned as irreverent.

Why do people revere? I seem to ask myself this question often enough, usually after seeing a particularly blatant case of it. I guess that I am so curious about what most people haven't given much thought to because I am without much reverence. At times I long for it, for the complacency that having carved out a little niche to retire to must bring. I said that I revere mountains, but I don't really *revere* mountains. You won't find me studying mountains for a living, writing papers and having colloquiums with the other mountain reverers debating the relative merits of different peaks and valleys (very important yet often overlooked aspect in mountain aesthetics...I mean what would mountains be without the valleys to define them? Nothing but high flat rock. Think of the prairies without wheat, soil, air density or mosquito infested flood waters). In a way I wish I could. It'd make life a lot simpler. You come to terms with reverence and you can spend your life happily working with it.

I suppose that in fact is the attraction to reverence. There is some psychological theory that we can only focus on 7 *new* things at any one time. If #8 comes along #1 walks off the end of the plank of your consciousness. Splash. (Sort of the liquid equivalent to our porcupine's previous **Plop**). Reverence of a certain object means that our lives revolve around the same familiar things and helps to keep that nasty #8 from bumping our thoughts off like a granite nugget.

We like to lead simple lives, surrounded by familiar things. That's what home, pets, and possessions are for. Think of them

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as security blankets for adults... They're always there when we return at the end of the day (unless your dog has not been taught about *animus revertendi*...) and have the added bonus of not cluttering up our novelty buffer.

Reverence is the worship of something that in its own way has become familiar. This something may be good or bad, healthy or unhealthy. A positive feedback loop often develops in which the reverence creates even more familiarity which increases one's comfort level which in turn makes the reverence stronger... We like something (e.g. criminal law) so we study it. We have inspirational lectures from stimulating professors so we delve further into the subject. Soon we spend so much time studying criminal law that it becomes comfortably

familiar and has taken over our lives.

Problems develop.

We are so into our study of criminal law that we know more than the judges on the Supreme Court of Canada. We know more than the best and most successful lawyers. In fact, we know so much that we become misunderstood, so much so that we could not hope to practice in the real world. Beyond hope we do practice yet are so far evolved past mere mortals that we lose all our cases because no one is able to follow our logic...("...I specifically said that in general the intent of the Supreme Court is that specific intent is not general enough in our situation. At least that is what I intended to specify...in general...")

What's there to do?

Stay out of the real world...you wake up one day and you've literally gone to the head of the

class...so far so that you're actually teaching it...

THEY'VE GONE AND MADE YOU A PROFESSOR!

Ah, it's not so bad...you've managed to escape from the real world, and even more, you can impart a legacy from your genius upon the ranks of fodder euphemistically termed law students. The only problem is that annoying nasal tinge that develops in your voice...

...So that's reverence...

Sometimes I get profoundly depressed that I could never develop a true reverence for anything and make something of myself. People like me are not to become reverent but are relegated to irreverence. If that is my lot in life, I can handle it. I'll just try my best to be the most irreverent person that there has ever been: *reverently irreverent*.

Law Journal Openings

By: Erica Stone, Editor-in-Chief

While so many of us are scrambling to get into the swing of things at school, we at the *McGill Law Journal* have been busily preparing for the recruitment of a new Associate Board. To prevent the *Journal* application process from interfering with the second year mooting exercise we are beginning our recruitment early in the term. Consequently, application packages will be available at S.A.O. on Thursday, September 9 and must be returned to the *McGill Law Journal* offices at 3661 Peel Street (side entrance) by 5 p.m. on Monday, September 20.

La *Revue* est à la recherche de quinze étudiants intéressés à participer à ses activités, soit en faisant la révision de textes juridiques très intéressants ou en s'impliquant dans ses affaires administratives. Nous avons besoin de candidats pour le Comité adjoint qui ont un souci des détails, un grand intérêt pour l'avancement de la doctrine juridique

canadienne et qui aiment travailler en équipe. Les candidats doivent être prêts à consacrer deux années académiques consécutives à la *Revue*; les étudiants de première année n'étant toutefois pas éligibles. Bien que le travail à la *Revue* soit très valorisant, les personnes qui désirent y travailler doivent être conscients du fait qu'il s'agit d'un travail exigeant qui requiert plusieurs heures de travail. Toutefois, afin de reconnaître le dévouement des membres de la *Revue* à la production d'une publication prestigieuse de haut calibre, des crédits académiques sont octroyés. Les candidats, qu'ils soient francophones ou anglophones, doivent avoir une bonne connaissance du français et de l'anglais et maîtriser de façon excellente l'une de ces deux langues. N'oubliez pas que la *Revue* est un périodique bilingue et qu'en conséquence, nous sommes souvent appelés à travailler dans les deux langues.

La demande d'adhésion devrait comprendre: une lettre exprimant le désir du candidat de devenir membre

du Comité éditorial ou administratif de la *Revue*, l'évaluation d'un article assigné par la *Revue*, une réponse à une question éditoriale ou administrative (une à deux pages) selon le choix du candidat, la révision d'un court texte et un *curriculum vitae*. Les candidats devront aussi se présenter à une entrevue en présence de tous les actuels membres de la *Revue*. Les entrevues, qui auront toujours lieu en soirée, se dérouleront les 24, 27 et 28 septembre.

Those students interested in applying to the *Journal* are thus encouraged to pick up an application package from S.A.O. and are invited to attend an information meeting which will be held on Wednesday, September 8 between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. in room 203. If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to call us at 398-7397 or to drop by our offices at 3661 Peel Street. We look forward to meeting with you.

Welcome Back!

